

AF/1600



RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 1637  
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:  
CHAUHAN *ET AL.*

CASE NO.: BC1032 US NA

SERIAL NO.: 09/823,373

GROUP ART UNIT: 1637

FILED: 30 MARCH 2001

EXAMINER: FREDMAN, J. N.

FOR: ISOLATION AND EXPRESSION OF A GENE  
FOR A NITRILASE FROM *ACIDOVOROX*  
72W

RECEIVED

JUN 11 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

REPLY UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

This Reply is filed in response to the Final Office Action, mailed 14 April 2003. This reply is submitted within two months of the mailing date of the Final Action under the certificate of mailing procedure. Please enter the following amendments and remarks and reconsider the application.

Claims 1-20 and 24-48 are pending in this application. Claims 21-23 were previously cancelled. Claims 6-8 and 24-45 are withdrawn from consideration under a restriction requirement. Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-13, 15-19, 46 and 47 stand rejected. Claims 4, 10, 12, 14, 20, and 47 are objected to.

The amendments presented herein (pages 2-4) are made under the Notice of Waiver of 37 CFR 1.121 (Amendment in a Revised Format) issued 31 January 2003.

The numbering of the paragraphs in the Remarks section (pages 5 *et seq.*) corresponds to that of the pending Office Action.